



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 2, 2007 07-57

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Evacuated by Helicopter from the Lower Saddle

Grand Teton National Park rangers used an interagency contract helicopter to evacuate an injured climber from the Lower Saddle on Wednesday, August 1. Kevin Klimek, age 50, from Detroit, Michigan, stumbled and fell several feet at approximately 8:45 a.m., while ascending the Exum Ridge on the Grand Teton with a group of climbers led by Exum Guides. Although he was roped-up and wearing a helmet, Klimek suffered lacerations to his face, bruises to his hand, and an injury to his knee during the fall.

The guide leading the climbing party called the Exum offices to report the accident, and Exum contacted park rangers, who began to monitor the situation. The party was able to descend to the Lower Saddle without additional assistance, by about 11:00 a.m. A ranger who was stationed at the Lower Saddle on a routine climbing patrol met the group there, evaluated Klimek's injuries, and provided emergency medical assistance. Rangers also conferred with a physician at St. John's Medical Center in Jackson about the patient's condition. Due to the nature of Klimek's injuries, the location of the accident, and the prolonged time an evacuation by foot would take, they made the decision to evacuate Klimek by helicopter.

An interagency contract helicopter flew to the Lower Saddle at 1:10 p.m. Rangers loaded Klimek inside the helicopter and flew him to Lupine Meadows, where a park ambulance was waiting to transport him to St. John's Medical Center for further treatment.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte